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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1897. — This volume contains a number of papers upon anthropological subjects, some of which have been reviewed in this journal.

"Mescal: a New Artificial Paradise" is described by Havelock Ellis from his own experience with the drug. Mescal — not to be confounded with the intoxicating drink distilled from the agave — is the blunt dried leaves of the cactus, called Anhalonium Lewinii. It is used by the Kiowa Indians and some other southwestern tribes. Though the use of mescal buttons is prohibited by the government, the practice of chewing them yet prevails among the Kiowas. "The rite usually takes place on Saturday night; the men then sit in a circle within the tent round a large camp fire, which is kept burning brightly all the time. After prayer the leader hands each man four buttons, which are slowly chewed and swallowed, and altogether about ten or twelve buttons are consumed by each man between sundown and daybreak. Throughout the night the men sit around the fire in a state of reverie, — amid continual singing and the beating of drums by attendants, — absorbed in the color visions and other manifestations of mescal intoxication, and about noon on the following day, when the effects have passed off, they get up and go about their business, without any depression or other unpleasant after effect." Mr. James Mooney called the attention of the Anthropological Society of Washington to this intoxicant in 1891. Dr. Weir Mitchell later published an account of the effects of the drug. Mr. Ellis describes the effects of mescal, especially the color visions, upon himself and also upon an artist friend.

Anthropological Notes. — Accompanying No. 4, Vol. X, of the *Bulletin of the Anthropological Society of Paris* is a list of the papers published by Dr. L. Manouvrier between 1880 and 1899. There are twenty-six titles classified as: "Scientific Philosophy"; "General Psychology"; "Reports"; "Sociology"; thirty-one as "Cerebral Anatomy and Physiology"; "Craniology"; "The Brain and

the Intelligence"; thirteen as "Evolution of the Human Species"; "Relations between the Function and the Organ"; twenty as "Ethnic Evolution"; "Ancient and Modern Races"; thirteen as "Abnormal Human Variations"; "Retrogression and Degeneration"; and twelve as "Anthropologic Technique."

In the *Bulletin de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris*, Tome X, pp. 328–381, appears a valuable paper by M. G. M. Soularus, entitled "Recherches sur les dimensions des os et les proportions squelettiques de l'homme dans les different races." In his introduction M. Soularus reviews the history of the study of the long bones of the human skeleton from the time of White — whom he persistently calls "Witte" — to the recent investigations of Manouvrier, to whom he acknowledges his indebtedness for the idea of measuring the circumference of the bones and deriving an index by comparison with the length. One hundred and seventy-four skeletons were measured, of which thirty-four were of the white race, sixty-five of the black, thirty-two of the American, twenty-four of the yellow, and sixteen of the Malayo-Polynesian race.

The conclusions are that the femur is shortest among the Americans, and the largest among the Europeans. The average length of femur among the negroes is equal to that of the whites of North Africa. As to the yellow race, it occupies a median position between the whites and negroes. Though the femur of the Americans is the shortest, it is the largest in circumference. The European index and diameter is greater than the negro.

In the males the tibia is shortest among the yellow race and the Americans; negroes and Europeans are equal; the longest average occurs among the Polynesians. Here again the race with the shortest tibia has the bone of largest diameter.

The shortest humerus is found among the negroes, the longest among Europeans. The yellow race and the Americans have a humerus but little longer than that of the negroes. But the diameter, and hence the index, is always least in the negro group.

After comparing the individual bones of the two sexes the author arrives at the following general conclusions:

1. The average length of the bones, their circumference, and their index of section vary in each race and in each sex.

The relation of the circumference of a long bone with its length is also variable. In general, the shorter the bone the greater its relative circumference. Sexual differences are greatest in the yellow race and among Europeans, least among the Arabs and negroes.

2. The vertebral column varies equally in each race and in each sex, both in length and in diameter, as a whole and in segments. It is longest among people with short limbs, short among the negroes with long legs.

3. For each race and each sex the relation between the length of the femur plus the length of the tibia to the height of the body is determined. The importance of the index of cross-section is shown in this connection, for the stature is found to be less in the case of long bones with low indices and greater in the case of short ones with a high index than would usually be determined by the mathematical method.

"The Unity of the Human Species" is the title of a twenty-page article in which the Marquis de Nadiallac endeavors to establish the thesis that man belongs to a single species uniform in anatomical structure and in the manifestations of his intelligence. He says in conclusion: "By the side of the similarity of the anatomic structure of man in all times and of all races, I have sought to place the similarity of his genius, as proved by the identity of his conceptions. The ossuaries which contain the remains of his predecessors, the custom of coloring his bones red after they have been denuded of their flesh, the mysterious symbol to which we have given the name Swastika, and other conceptions, other almost universal creations, which it would be easy to add, all tend toward the confirmation of the knowledge given to us by the earliest arms, the first tools and implements of flint, and the most ancient pottery. We believe it impossible to misapprehend or mistake the proofs that flow from modern researches, all of which affirm with an irrefutable eloquence the unity of the human species."

"Recent Research in Egypt." — Dr. W. M. Flinders Petrie in a brief paper calls attention to the important discoveries made by archæologists in Egypt during the years 1895–97. During this short period the known history of the Nile Valley has been carried back a thousand years or more beyond what was previously regarded as the beginning of things. Now we look for the beginning many centuries before the pyramids, probably 5000 B.C., or even earlier.

Miss Fletcher's paper upon "The Import of the Totem," and that by Dr. Fewkes, entitled "A Preliminary Account of Archæological Field Work in Arizona in 1897," have been noticed in the *Naturalist* of January, 1898, and July, 1899.

"A New Group of Stone Implements from the Southern Shores of Lake Michigan" is the title of an attractively illustrated article by Dr. W. A. Phillips. Most of the implements are made from flakes; the trap cobblestones from which they were flaked do not readily lend themselves to the blocking out of blades from nuclei. F. R.

ZOÖLOGY.

Beasts.—The author of *Beasts*[1] belongs to that order of naturalists who, to the dread of housewives and maids and to the delight of all healthy boys, fill their pockets, cupboards, and rooms with reptiles and rodents of every description. From the pages of Mr. Kennedy's book we gather that a young crocodile occupied one shelf of his bookcase, a python another, and a pair of white rats a third. In one corner of the room stood the kennel of an armadillo; a vivarium abounding with salamanders, frogs, and tortoises stood by the window; and from somewhere emerged at night a potto, which became so hilarious that three several policemen roused the inmates of the house to warn them against burglars. The book is made up of short sketches of the interesting ways of all these creatures, and of many more, put together loosely, in a familiar style, the chief characteristics of which are sympathy for the whole range of the animal kingdom and a keen love of humor.

It is when animals refuse to behave after the rules laid down for them in the books that they have the greatest interest for Mr. Kennedy. When a toad, instead of rolling its cast skin into a ball and swallowing it with gusto, as it ought, takes it down "slowly and disgustfully"; when a tadpole "covers itself with ridicule" by trying to jump about before it has cast its long clumsy tail,—then it is that he thinks their actions worth chronicling. The curious awkwardness which some animals display in the capture of their food is the subject of some amusing pages. Worms, in particular, prove a severe test to the intelligence and patience of many of the reptiles. The "crass stupidity" of the lower reptiles prevents the author's interest in their habits from passing into affection. A white rat, however,

[1] Kennedy, Wardlaw. Beasts. Thumb-Nail Studies in Pets. London, The Macmillan Company, 1899. Illustrated with numerous drawings and photographs. 152 pp. Price $1.50.